

Amendments to the Claims:

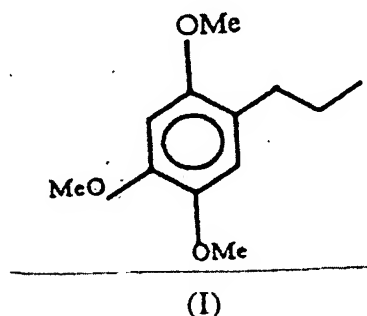
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of neolignan 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2'', 4'', 5''-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-(2', 4', 5'-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-propene (~~2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl~~)—from toxic β -asarone or β -asarone rich *Acorus calamus* oil containing α and γ -asarone, the said process comprising the following steps:

- a) hydrogenating β -asarone or β -asarone rich calamus oil containing α and γ -asarone in presence of methanol or ethanol, 10% Pd/e Pd/C catalyst, with or without ammonium formate under pressure between 0 - 40 psi at room temperature,
- b) purifying the product of step (a) over silica gel column to obtain 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane ~~trimethoxyphenylpropane~~ of formula (I),



- c) stirring the compound of formula (I) of step (b) with DDQ in presence of organic solvent selected from group of acetic acid or propionic acid at room temperature for overnight,
- d) filtering the precipitate solid of DDQH₂ and washing the filtrate twice with acetic acid,
- e) evaporating the filtrate of step (d), to obtain a concentrated mixture,
- f) ~~solution and~~ extracting the mixture of (e) with dichloromethane[[,]] wherein the mixture of acetic acid and dichloromethane forms an organic layer,

- g) washing the organic layer of step (f) [(e)] with brine followed by 10% sodium bicarbonate and another second washing with brine, brine, 10% bicarbonate solution, followed by again brine,
- h) drying the organic layer obtained in step (g) [(f)] over anhydrous sodium sulphate, wherein a residue is formed,
- i) chromatographing the residue of step (h) step (g) over silica gel using ~~hexane-ethyl~~ hexane-ethyl acetate mixture to obtain three sets of fractions, and
- j) crystallizing fractions of step (i) [(h)] using mixture of hexane and methanol, and
- k) obtaining crystallized fractions of ~~α -asarone~~ 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane of formula I, 1- (2,4,5-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-propanone ~~of formula IIb~~ and 2,4, neolignan 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2'', 4'', 5''-trimethoxy) phenyl- -1-(2', 4', 5'-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-propene ~~of formula II.~~

37 - 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 36 wherein the effective molar ratio of ~~2,4,5-trimethoxy~~ 2,4,5-trimethoxy propane and DDQ in step (c) is in the range of 1:1 to 1:2.1

46. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the organic solvent in step (c) is acetic acid.

47. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 36 wherein the neolignan obtained is termed as NEOLASA-I.

48. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) has one asymmetric center.

49. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) obtained provides the opportunity for evaluation of its biological activity.

50. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) has aliphatic side chain with one double bond.